

HIS  
MAJESTIES  
SPEECH

TO THE  
Gentlemen of Yorkshire,  
On Thursday, the 4. of *August*.  
1642.



YORK:

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Kings most Excellent Majestic: And by the  
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His Majesties Speech,  
To the Gentlemen of *York-shire*, on  
Thursday the 4 of *August*.

Gentlemen,

**W**hen I directed that Summons  
should be sent out for your meeting  
here this day, my principall end  
was, That I might give you  
thanks for the great forwardnesse  
and expressions you have made of  
your affections to me since I came  
into this Countrey, and to assure you, That as  
the whole Kingdom hath great reason to value you  
exceedingly for it, so I shall be very unsatisfied  
with my self, till I have found some way to fix a  
mark of favour, and estimation upon this County,  
and this People, which may tell Posterity, how  
good Subjects you have been, and how much Gen-  
tlemen; and I am confident the memory of it will  
grow up with my Sons too, in a just acknowledge-  
ment. This was the most I intended to say to  
you, but there is an inquiet Spirit abroad, which  
every day throwes in new accidents to disturbe, and  
confound the publique Peace. Now I was driven

from London, when I chose this place for my safety, is so notorious, that all men know it, who know any thing; with what strange violence, and Indignities I have been pursued, since I came hither, needs no other Evidence, then Sir John Hothams behaviour at Hull, who is now arrived at that Insolence, That he will not suffer his Treason to be longer confined within those walls; but makes Sallyes out of the Town, upon his fellow Subjects, drowns their Land, burns and plunders their houses, murders, and with unheard of cruelty, torments their persons; And this with so much delight, That he would not have the patience, to wait what Answer should be sent to my just demands, though in that respect, I engaged my self, to forbear to use any force, and kept my word; but chose the night before that came, (as if he well knew what Answer I was to receive) to Act those outrages.

You see the sad effects of fears and Jealousies, the miseries they have produced; No man can tell you the least good they have brought forth, or the least evil they have prevented: What inconvenience and burthen my presence hath been here, what disturbance it hath brought upon the publique, or grievance upon any private Person, your selves are the best Judges; And whatever scandall some men have pleased to cast upon the Cavaliers (which they intend should reach all my Retirew, and by degrees shall involve all Gentlemen) I am confident, there hath not been any eminent disorder, or damage befallen any man, by any Person of my Train,

Train, or under my protection. I am sure my directions have been very strict in that point, and if they had not been observed, I think I should have heard of it by neerer complaints, then from London; I pray God the same care may be taken there: I am sure it hath not been. And to give you the fullest testimony of my affection to you, and to the peace of this County, and to shew you that no provocation shall provoke me to make this place to be the seat of the war, I have, for your sakes, passed over the Considerations of Honour, and notwithstanding the reproaches every day laid on me, laid no siege to that place, that they may not have the least pretences of doing you mischief, but resolve, by Gods help to recover Hull some other way, for that I will ever sit down under so bold and unexcusable a Treason no honest man can imagine. But it seems other men are not of my minde, but resolve to make a War at your own doores, whatsoever you do, or I suffer. To what purpose else is their new Generall armed with an authority to kill and destroy all my good Subjects; their levies of Horse and foot, some whereof are upon their March towards you, with Canon mounted, and the sending so many new Souldiers into Hull, when there is no approach made towards it, but to fall y out, and to commit Rapine, and by degrees to poure out an Army upon you: In this I must ask your advice, what you will do for your selves, what you would have me do for you. You see how I am stript of my Rabbie at Sea, which is imployed against me, of my forts and Towns at Land, which are filled

with armed men to destroy me, my Money and Provisions of my House taken from me, and all my Subjects forbid and threatned if they come neer me, that I may by famine or solitarinesse be compelled to yeeld to the most dishonourable Propositions, and to put my Selve and Children into the hands of a few Malignant Persons, who have entered into a Combination to destroy us: And all this done under pretence of a trust reposed by the People. How far you are from committing any such trust, most of the persons trusted by you, & your own expressions of duty to me, hath manifested to all the world; and how far the whole Kingdom is from abowing such a trust, hath already, in a great measure, & I doubt not will more every day appear, by the professions of every County: for I am wholly cast upon the Affections of my People, and have no hope but in the blessing and assistance of God; the justnesse of my cause, and the love of my Subjects, to recover what is taken from me and them, for I may justly say they are equall losers with me.

Gentlemen, I desire you to consider what course is to be taken for your own security from the excursions from Hull, and the violence which threatens you from thence: I will assist you any way you propose. Next, I desire you, out of the publike Provision, or your private Store, to furnish me with such a number of Arms (Muskets, and Corbets) as you may conveniently spare, which I do promise to see fully repaid to you: These Arms I desire may be speedily delivered to the custody of my Lord Major of York, for my use, principally from those parts

parts, which by reason of their distance from Hall are least subject to the fear of violence from thence. And whosoever shall so furnish me, shall be excused from their attendance and service at Husters, till their Arms shall be restored; which may well be sooner then I can promise, or you expect. I desire nothing of you but what is necessary to be done for the preservation of Gods true Religion, the Laws of the Land, the Liberty of the Subject, and the very being of the Kingdom of England: for tis too evident all these are at stake.

For the Compleating my Sonnes Regiment for the guard of my person, under the command of my Lord Cumberland, I refer it wholly to your selves, who have expressed such forwardness in it.

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